

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 423

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Doyle Lawson upon receiving an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from King College.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary talents, have earned accolades and distinguished themselves as artists of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is bluegrass legend, Doyle Lawson, who was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from King College; and

WHEREAS, the conferring of this prestigious degree is a worthy tribute to the musical artistry of this citizen of our great State, and it is also a welcome opportunity to introduce new fans to his music, and to bluegrass music in general; and

WHEREAS, born in Ford Town, a part of Sullivan County, in 1944, Mr. Lawson was raised with a rich heritage of music; his family members were members of trios and quartets that sang a capella music in churches and at revivals, and they all listened regularly to the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, at a young age, Doyle Lawson taught himself to play the mandolin by listening to the radio and records and watching the occasional television show; at about age fourteen, he broadened his instrumental repertoire by learning the banjo and guitar; and

WHEREAS, after playing with a number of bands, each of which had its own distinctive sound, Mr. Lawson decided to form a band that would more fittingly express the nuances of his own abundant talent and style; in April of 1979, the group Doyle Lawson and Foxfire, which soon changed its name to Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, was born; and

WHEREAS, through its many changes in band membership and subtle evolution of sound, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver has claimed an enduring place in the bluegrass community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Mr. Lawson still finds time to lend his talents to such notable causes as the Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver Festival and its accompanying golf tournament; and

WHEREAS, a devout man of faith, Mr. Lawson dedicates his talent to his “musical mission” of bringing others to Jesus; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawson is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Suzanne, and they are the proud parents of a son, Robbie, and daughters, Suzi and Kristi; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Doyle Lawson for his tremendous artistry and for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Doyle Lawson for his immeasurable contribution to the bluegrass genre and the musical world at large, congratulate him upon receiving an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from King College, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.